

nations". It is foolish to believe that anti-Semitism can be combated by scientific arguments, however cogent they may be; and it was a fatal mistake of the Jews when, in their rationalism, they believed that popular instincts could be met by reason. Where hostility exists between groups, new arguments will always be found or invented to justify it. In the Middle Ages many women who were disliked because of their odd appearance or behaviour were burnt at the stake as witches, it having been proved beyond all doubt in the Law Courts that they had caused great harm by their "evil eye" or other sorceries. Countless Jews were tortured and done to death in the Middle Ages because both the judges and the people were blinded to such an extent by superstition and hatred that they sincerely believed the tales of "ritual murder" and desecration of the Host. When popular passions seek for a victim, even in these enlightened days, they are never short of arguments and do not inquire into their soundness.

Conditions in Palestine are different in that the Jews and non-Jews tend to concentrate in particular

districts. More-
over, although the Jews are in the minority,
they are in
Palestine percentually more numerous and
economically
and politically stronger in comparison with
the non-Jews
than in any other country. The conflict
between Jews and
Arabs in Palestine resembles, therefore, not so
much the anti-
Semitism of a strong non-Jewish majority
against a weak
Jewish minority, but much rather a rivalry
between two
equal nations. Such rivalry may be marked,
but it lacks the
tang of contempt and helplessness which
renders anti-
Semitism in Europe so hard to bear for the
Jews.